

What's New In Town Departments

Planning Board Talks Over Proposed Center

By Donna Krapi

Planning Board Chairman Laurence Stone said that it was the intention of the Board to assemble the various parties interested in the Jaycees' proposed Youth Center structure and seek a meeting of the minds regarding what kind of land is to be used and where.

At Monday evening's assemblage, Edward Kirby, representing Peter Sholley of the Youth Commission, explained that Article 23 of the warrant for Town

Meeting will request approval for the leasing of the Simons property next to the library for a five year period to a non-profit organization, the Youth Center of Wellesley, Inc.

According to Mr. Kirby, the building will revert to the town at the end of five years as a self-supporting institution.

The "drop-in center, general purpose building will lend itself to public use," Mr. Kirby said with meeting rooms available.

Franklin Sanders informed the Board and Mr. Kirby that the Conservation Commission with "close to a unanimous vote" is against the use of the Simons property for a Youth Center. "We have been hoping that you would find another

area for the Center," said Mr. Sanders.

"What is the possibility of using land now owned by Friendly Aid?" Chairman Stone asked.

"We have received no official offer regarding the Friendly Aid land, and the general cry of the public has been for a more centrally located area," Mr. Kirby stated. Warren Little of the Park and Tree Board informed the Planning Board that an effort would be made at Town Meeting to first take up Article 24 which proposes that the Simons property be returned to the Board of Public Works for park purposes to be preserved as open space.

If Town Meeting votes yes for Article 24, a legislative act would be required for any change of use in the future. However, as one Board member explained, "the legislative act is a mere rubber stamping of Town Meeting vote."

The alternative to Article 23 and 24 is Article 25 which calls for a three year study committee to investigate for the town how the land could best be used.

Recreation Commission member John McConchie said that the Commission "as a body would like to see the Youth Center on the Simons property."

Kirby insisted, "We don't want to abandon our project to begin investigating unrealities. We looked into the possibility of Dana Hall land and were told that none would be available. We're trying to make a present to the town, but we're getting very discouraged," he continued. "We haven't ruled an alternative location out."

Franklin Sanders suggested town owned land in the Farms station area which has "built in parking spaces" that could be used both by commuters and the Youth Center.

A potential second motion to be made by the Park and Tree Board regarding Simons property will be to preserve a "set-back strip" as park land. The strip would be equal to that in front of the library and would run along Washington street, Brook road and along the stream.

When Little asked for guidance from the Planning Board, Mr. Stone said "by the time of Town Meeting, we will have something to say about the use of that land."

The Simons property is included within the defined "Wellesley Square area" and as such will be part of the Planning Board's new Wellesley Square study.

Pedestrian Movement in Square

Some "raw facts" gathered for the Planning Board about pedestrian movement and parking within the Wellesley Square area reveal that the heaviest pedestrian traffic movement is between Filene's and R.H. Stearns on Central street. The tabulation made over a two week period further shows that pedestrians "avoid" the north side of Central street from the Gulf station to just before Hathaway bookstore.

There is a "noticeable conflict" between pedestrians and cars in the Washington and Grove street area with people crossing in the middle of the block rather than at the light.

Also, shoppers in the Washington/Grove street area generally use on-street parking, but Central street shoppers rely upon parking lots. Planning Board Executive Secretary Charles Thomas concluded that "on-street parking may be over-rated in the Central street area, and the justification for a mall appears greater."

"Goals and judgments" regarding the Wellesley Square study have not yet been made by the

Board. "We have to set down ideas of what we hope to accomplish, and we must plan pretty closely with the Chamber of Commerce," said Chairman Stone.

Extinguished Fire Re-blazes

A fire thought to be extinguished came to life early Saturday morning outside the Intermediate Building at 324 Washington street and ignited a piece of plywood on the outside of the building, causing a fire that resulted in some \$2500 damage to the Wellesley Youth Center.

Earlier on the evening of January 28, a small sofa fire supposedly was extinguished and the sofa was removed, placed outside the building, leaned against a plywood board that covered a hole once housing an air conditioner. At 2:53 a.m., the Intermediate Building's sprinkler alarm set off Box 254, taking Wellesley firemen to the scene.

The fire had burned into the building through the plywood, but was confined to the basement area. Damage was done to the ceiling and a small portion of the floor above had to be cut out. Firemen remained on duty at the site until 4:00 a.m.

In another unusual run, Wellesley firemen brought boats to Lake Waban on Sunday evening after a caller reported that a hockey stick had been found near a hole on the ice at the rear of 863 Washington street. Underwater lights and grappling hooks were used but no one was found under the ice.

Runs made last week were as follows:

Tuesday, January 25 - 10:00 a.m., Box 514, mutual aid to Weston; 1:45

p.m., an electric wire down at 191 Weston road; 4:32 p.m., Box 424, a minor building and contents fire at 11 Shirley road; a short circuit in an electric stove, owner Howard Goldberg; 6:50 p.m., Box 513, mutual aid to Natick; 7:06 p.m., Box 514, mutual aid to Weston; 9:40 p.m., a light ballast at the Public Works Building; and 11:22 p.m., a ruptured oil tank at 11 Bird Hill avenue.

Wednesday, January 26 - 12:30 p.m., a minor fire in the boy's lavatory at the High School; 6:40 p.m., an oil burner at 31 Clovelly road.

Thursday, January 27 - 8:34 a.m., an auto fire at 35 Pembroke road; 10:17 p.m., an investigation at 494 Washington street.

Friday, January 28 - 8:25 p.m., smoke from the chimney at Page Kindergarten, an investigation; 1:15 p.m., Box 427, investigation of an odor at 31 Pine Plain road; 1:19 p.m., a truck fire at 275 Linden street.

Saturday, January 29 - 2:53 a.m., Box 254, 324 Washington street, see above; 2:33 p.m., rescued a dog in the water at Lake Waban.

Sunday, January 30 - 5:26 p.m., investigation at rear of 863 Washington street, see above.

Tuesday, February 1 - 10:06 a.m., investigation at the Page Kindergarten, Wellesley College, oil burner trouble.

Civil Defense in Simulated Emergency

The regular Sunday morning Wellesley Civil Defense radio drill was highlighted January 30 when Wellesley C.D. radio amateurs took part in a simulated emergency test. This annual communications test, sponsored by the American

Radio Relay League, Newington, Conn. is designed to test radio communications in case of an emergency not only in local areas, but also throughout the Country. Its purpose is also to demonstrate to served agencies and the general Public amateur radio's ability to function as an emergency radio system.

Under the direction of Marshall H. Cannell, WA1DMC, Wellesley C.D. Communications Officer, 25 Sheridan road, many of Wellesley's 11 fixed and mobile Civil Defense radio stations within the Town were in operation. Also taking part were: Roger P. Smith, W1EOA, 7 Berkeley road; Albert H. Graf, W1OQP, 319 Worcester street; Walter E. Lenk, K1YTY, Wellesley C.D. Publicity Officer, 22 Priscilla circle; Dr. William H. Emerson, WA1EVD, 115 Westgate road; John B. Porter, K1PRB, 49 Suffolk road; Jay E. Jones, K1EQA, 123 Worcester street; and Charles A. Chabot, WA1GBF, 11 Trinity court.

George P. deCen, Wellesley Civil Defense Director, also a participant in the test, has high praise for his group of amateur radio operators. He has said, "no one wants a natural disaster in our Town, but if it happens I'm sure they will be on the job to do whatever they can."

Selectmen to Go to Newton

The Board of Selectmen of Wellesley have been invited to attend a meeting of the Finance Committee in Newton's City Hall on February 10.

Selectmen will discuss a Wellesley proposal to tie into the Newton Sewer line.

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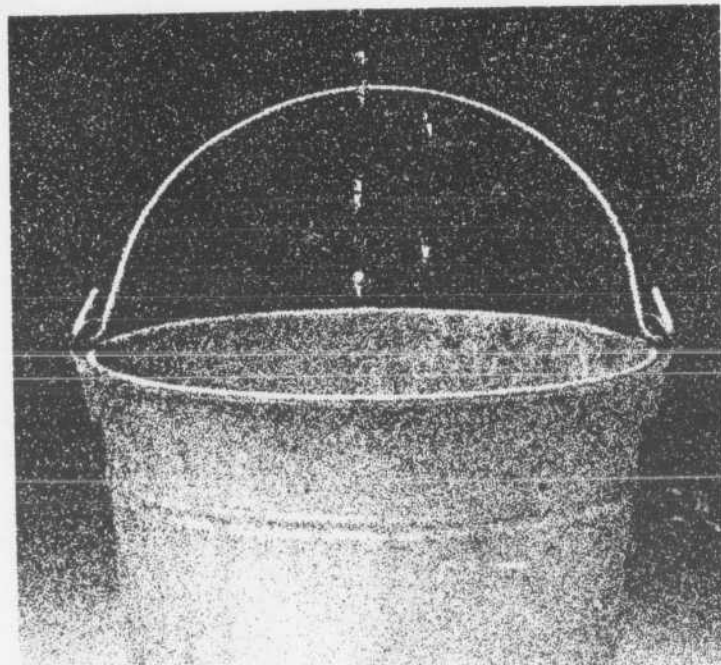
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